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'Executive Action' opens

By Mary Knoblanch

IF "EXECUTIVE ACTION" had come out three years ago or even six months ago, I might be able to forgive it. If it were logically put together as "Z" was, or if it had some respect for historical accuracy, I might find it in my heart to appreciate what it is getting at so obtusely.

But when a film suggesting that a bunch of businessmen plotted the death of President Kennedy opens the weekend before the 10th anniversary of his death, I smell the dirtiest kind of money-grubbing opportunism it has been my misfortune to witness as a movie critic.

I think Mark Lane, who has spent the last decade questioning the results of the Warren Commission report, is sincere, and I am willing to believe that his collaborators Dalton Trumbo and Donald Freed were sincere in their wish to reopen the case. The same goes for the cast.

But I am suspicious about the people who provided the money for the film, coming as it does in the shadow of Watergate and superimposing the wicked businessmen conspiracy on Mark Lane's thesis that the FBI and CIA were at fault.

"Executive Action" is two films, and neither of them is complete. Those who have not read Lane's book will be unable to follow the convictions of the plot, and those who are too young to remember those days are going to be confused by the intercutting of newsreel and fictional footage.

The film is in showcase theaters, and while it is interesting in the way that a gory accident is fascinating, it is at heart a despicable attempt to make money from a nation's grief.

FILM FESTIVAL NOTES: The jury named the C- film "Morgiana" Best of the Festival and awarded cial Gold Hugo to Satyajit Ray "for his achie- cinema over two decades, culminatin- 'Distant Thunder.' "

The jury, which includ- critic John Russell Taylo- son, London film expert- critic emeritus Claud- Prize o "The Bitte- Germany "as a- stature as a- thority."

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